

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Please amend claim 11-22 as follows.

11. (Currently amended) A disinfecting agent for combating and inactivating phytopathogenic organisms that are present on plants and on hard surfaces surrounding the plants, said agent comprising at least one anionic surfactant, at least one aliphatic carboxylic acid, at least one aromatic carboxylic acid, ~~[[and]]~~ mono-, di- and/or triglycols, at least one hydrotropic agent and at least one primary and/or secondary aliphatic, monovalent alcohol having a chain length of C₂ to C₈ in aqueous or aqueous-alcoholic solution, wherein said agent, when contacted with phytopathogenic organisms present on plants or on hard surfaces, kills or inactivates the phytopathogenic organisms without damaging the plants and without leaving phytotoxic residues on the hard surfaces,

wherein the aliphatic and aromatic carboxylic acids are selected from the group consisting of methanoic acid, ethanoic acid, propanoic acid, hydroxyethanoic acid, 2-hydroxypropionic acid, oxoethanoic acid, 2-oxopropionic acid, 4-oxovaleric acid, benzoic acid, o-, m-, p-hydroxybenzoic acids, 3,4,5-tri-hydroxybenzoic acid, and mixtures thereof, and wherein the anionic surfactant has a primary chains of a length of C₈ – C₁₈ and is selected from the group consisting of alkyl sulfonates, alkylarylsulfonates, the sodium-, potassium- and ammonium salts of alkyl sulfonates and alkylarylsulfonates,

wherein the mono-, di- and/or triglycols are selected from the group consisting of ethylene glycol, propylene glycol, 2,3-butylene glycol, diethylene glycol [2,2'-dihydroxydiethylether], triethylene glycol [(1,2-di-2-hydroxyethoxyl-ethane], and mixtures thereof, and

wherein the hydrotropic agent is selected from the group consisting of toluene sulfonate and cumene sulfonate as sodium- or potassium salts.

Claims 12-16. (canceled without prejudice or disclaimer)

17. (Previously amended) The disinfecting agent according to claim 11, wherein the weight ratio of the aliphatic acids (A) to the aromatic acids (B) is between 1 : 9 and 9 : 1 and their sum is between 5 and 40 % by wt. relative to the total weight of the disinfecting-agent concentrate.

18. (Previously amended) The disinfecting agent according to claim 11, wherein the weight ratio of the alkyl sulfonates and/or alkylarylsulfates and their salts (C) with the acids (A+B) in the ratio C : (B+A) is between 1 : 9 and 9 : 1 and their sum is between 10 and 60 % relative to the total weight of the disinfecting-agent concentrate.

19. (Previously amended) The disinfecting agent according to claim 11, wherein the weight component of the glycols relative to the total weight of the disinfecting-agent concentrate is between 10 and 40 % by wt.

20. (Previously amended) The disinfecting agent according to claim 11, wherein the weight ratio of the hydrotropic agents toluene sulfonate and cumene sulfonate, their sodium- or potassium salts, individually or in a mixture with each other, is between 5 and 40 % by wt. relative to the total weight of the disinfecting-agent concentrate.

21. (Previously amended) The disinfecting agent according to claim 11, wherein the weight ratio of the monovalent alcohols, individually or in a mixture with each other, is between 5 and 60 % by wt. relative to the total weight of the disinfecting-agent concentrate.

22. (Currently amended) A method for combating phytopathogenic microorganisms present on a plant or on hard surfaces surrounding the plant, comprising the step of applying to the plant and/or to its immediate environment a composition containing 0.5 to 10 % by wt. of a disinfection agent concentrate in dilute aqueous solution, which disinfecting agent comprises at least one anionic surfactant, at least one aliphatic carboxylic acid, at least one aromatic carboxylic acid, [[and]] mono-, di- and/or

triglycols, at least one hydrotropic agent and at least one primary and/or secondary aliphatic, monovalent alcohol having a chain length of C₂ to C₈ in aqueous solution, wherein said agent, when contacted with phytopathogenic organisms present on plants or on hard surfaces, kills or inactivates the phytopathogenic organisms without damaging the plants and without leaving phytotoxic residues on the hard surfaces,

wherein the aliphatic and aromatic carboxylic acids are selected from the group consisting of methanoic acid, ethanoic acid, propanoic acid, hydroxyethanoic acid, 2-hydroxypropionic acid, oxoethanoic acid, 2-oxopropionic acid, 4-oxovaleric acid, benzoic acid, o-, m-, p-hydroxybenzoic acids, 3,4,5-tri-hydroxybenzoic acid, and mixtures thereof, and wherein the anionic surfactant has a primary chains of a length of C₈ – C₁₈ and is selected from the group consisting of alkyl sulfonates, alkylarylsulfonates, the sodium-, potassium- and ammonium salts of alkyl sulfonates and alkylarylsulfonates,

wherein the mono-, di- and/or triglycols are selected from the group consisting of ethylene glycol, propylene glycol, 2,3-butylene glycol, diethylene glycol [2,2'-dihydroxydiethylether], triethylene glycol [(1,2-di-2-hydroxyethoxyl-ethane)], and mixtures thereof, and

wherein the hydrotropic agent is selected from the group consisting of toluene sulfonate and cumene sulfonate as sodium- or potassium salts in aqueous or aqueous-alcoholic solution, wherein said agent, when contacted with phytopathogenic organisms present on plants or on hard surfaces, kills or inactivates the phytopathogenic organisms without damaging the plants and without leaving phytotoxic residues on the hard surfaces.